



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

1849 C Street NW, LS 1000

Washington, D.C. 20240

www.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:
9683 (350)P
Survey Manual Note 3

April 16, 2003

Memorandum

To: Cadastral Chiefs

From: Bob Dahl

Subject: The Public Land Survey States – Request for Assistance

DD: May 5, 2003

I am asking for your assistance in verifying information for the next edition of the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States.

The Public Land States – Section 1-23 of the 1973 edition, pages 10 and 11, reads:

“The following list of the States formed from the public domain gives the date of admission, a citation of the enabling act in the United States Statutes at Large, and the present location of the original records of public land surveys.”

Note that this section of the Manual refers to the present location of the *original* records (field notes and plats) for the Public Land States. Section 1-23 provides easy access, in one location to information about important dates, citations and locations.

For the state(s) in your jurisdiction please review section 1-23 and affirm the following facts:

- a) Brief Acquisition History,
- b) Date of Admission,
- c) United States Statutes at Large Citation of the Enabling Act, and
- d) Present Location of the Original Records (Field Notes and Plats) for each State.

Please send your affirmation or corrections for the above by Memorandum or e-mail to Bob Dahl by May 5, 2003. The second page of this memorandum is for your information. The third page is a request for information, but your response is optional.

Update Regarding Next Edition

On January 6, 2003, the BLM News Release announcing our intent to update the Manual was e-mailed to the 50 state boards of surveyor examiners. To date, these are the only state officials directly notified by BLM about the next edition of the Manual.

On March 31, 2003, a very brief presentation about the next edition of the Manual was given at the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping Conference, with an attendance of about 30.

The POB magazine carried an article about the next edition of the Manual in their March 2003 edition.

Information on the preparation of the next edition can be accessed on the Next Edition Web Site, at: <http://www.blm.gov/cadastral/Manual/nextedition.htm>

I have a copy of the Lin Livermore 1992 draft Manual, including a list of people who worked on various chapters, and the Doug Wilcox 1993 draft Manual.

To date, I have identified 4 printings of the 1973 edition: 1973, 1975, 1987, and 1988. To determine the print date of a Manual turn to the last page of the index in the back. For the 1973 edition this is page 333. The date of the printing is in the "Jacket Number" information. For example: "U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1975-O-572-352," is the Jacket Number of a Manual I am looking at. The 1975 is the date of printing. If you have evidence of additional dates, please let me know.

Nobody has been able to give me the BLM/DOI definition of *Technical Bulletin*. It appears *Technical Bulletins* are no longer in the BLM or DOI administrative handbook. I do know the title and date of publication of Technical Bulletins 1 to 6. If you have any information regarding the definition of Technical Bulletins effective when the Manual was published, or the last definition of Technical Bulletins, or the document terminating Technical Bulletins, please let me know.

To date, the only "Manual" publications between the 1902 and the 1930 Manuals, I have identified are the 1919 Advance Sheets, approved June 16, 1919, for chapters I through VI, and the 1928 Manuscript Edition, approved March 1, 1928, for chapter IX. If you have manual publications in addition to these, please let me know.

To date, the only Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Mineral Lands of the United States editions I have identified are 1897 and 1909. If you have other editions, please let me know.

Bonus Points

I am assuming that the location of the duplicate records (field notes and plats) of your state(s) is the Eastern States Office. Is this true? If not please identify the location of your duplicate records.

Extra Bonus Points

Identify the location of the triplicate plats and the descriptive notes of your state(s). Please note whether these are complete sets of each or not.

Extra Extra Bonus Points

Identify the location, and range of dates of transcribed records (field notes and plats), if any, of your state(s). For the purpose of this memorandum the definition of transcribed, means the original or duplicate records were destroyed or lost. If your state(s) has no transcribed records, please inform me of that fact. If your state(s) does have transcribed records, please state whether they are in lieu of the original or duplicate records, and the location of the transcribed records. For example: Transcribed records are located in the California State Office, Sacramento, from 1906 and older, transcribed from the duplicate records, because the original records were destroyed April 18, 1906, in the San Francisco earthquake.

Bonus Points Extra

Identify the location of the original and duplicate records (field notes and plats) for the non-PLSS state(s) in your jurisdiction.